

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

(currently amended) 1. A system for managing physical assets, the system comprises comprising:

a computer database ~~that for tracking~~ physical assets ~~based on a unique code embedded in a machine scannable identifying label attachable to the physical assets~~ with each physical asset assigned a unique identifying code that is unique for all assets tracked by the system with no two assets belonging to different classes of physical assets and no two assets belonging to the same class of physical assets having the same identifying code;

a plurality of scanners located in a corresponding plurality of different geographic locations throughout the system, the scanners being capable of reading the unique identifying code assigned to a particular physical asset, the unique identifying code being embedded in a unique identifying label attached to the asset ~~capable of reading the identifying labels;~~

a communications link between the plurality of scanners and the computer database; and wherein

every time the status of a physical asset changes over the course of a cycle of change in status, the unique identifying label attached to the asset is scanned by one of the plurality of scanners and the unique identification information identifying code is transmitted over the communications link to the computer database ~~at each point in a cycle of change in status of the item.~~

(currently amended) 2. The system of claim 1 ~~further comprising sending wherein~~ location information is transmitted over the communications link to the computer database along with the unique ~~identification~~ identifying code every time the status of the physical asset changes.

(cancelled) 3.

(currently amended) 4. The system of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein the unique identifying code assigned to a particular physical asset is associated with ~~data~~ a unique record stored in the computer database ~~that describes the item being tracked.~~

(currently amended) 5. The system of claim 4 wherein the ~~data~~ record comprises information specific to the ~~item of inventory~~ physical asset.

(currently amended) 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the identifying label attached to a physical asset is scanned ~~when~~ every time the ~~item of inventory~~ asset is moved.

(currently amended) 7. The system of claim ~~4~~ 5 further comprising a database server connected ~~so as to be able to query~~ to the central computer database for facilitating communication between a user and the computer database ~~responsive to a user inquiry.~~

(original) 8. The system of claim 7 wherein the database server is connected to a network.

(original) 9. The system of claim 8 wherein the network comprises the World Wide Web.

(currently amended) 10. The system of claim 8 wherein the location of the ~~item of inventory~~ physical asset is updated in real-time to the central computer database.

(cancelled) 11.

(original) 12. The system of claim 1 wherein the communications link is wireless.

(currently amended) 13. The system of claim 1 wherein a vendor is connected to the ~~communications link to the~~ computer database over the communications link allowing the vendor to ~~and~~ provides information about ~~the item of inventory~~ a particular physical asset to the database.

(currently amended) 14. A method of asset management comprising:  
assigning each physical asset to be tracked a unique identifying code that is unique for all assets to be tracked with no two assets belonging to different classes of physical assets and no two assets belonging to the same class of physical assets having the same identifying code;  
providing the unique identification code assigned to a physical asset in a unique identifying label and attaching the unique identifying label to the physical asset;  
providing a central computer database having a plurality of records, of tracked items identified by a unique identifying code with each record being associated with a particular physical asset and being identified by the unique identifying code associated with the asset, with the record including information specific to the asset;  
providing a plurality of scanners located in a corresponding plurality of different geographic locations and capable of reading the unique identifying labels;  
providing a communications link between a the plurality of scanners and the central computer database;  
and at each point in a cycle of change in status of the item scanning the machine scannable unique identifying label when the item status is changed attached to a physical asset with one of the scanners every time the status of the physical asset is changed over the course of a cycle of change in status; and  
transmitting the information scanned status update information and the unique identifying code over the communications link to the central computer database every time the status of the physical asset is changed over the course of a cycle of change in status.

(currently amended) 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the ~~item~~ status ~~comprises~~ of a physical asset includes the location and scanning, encodes the location in each status update of the asset.

(currently amended) 16. The method of claim 14 wherein the central computer database provides users ~~of the method~~ real-time sharing of ~~relevant information such as order status, stocking location, notifications, or any other special instructions~~ the information stored in the records of the central computer database.

(currently amended) 17. The method of claim 14 further comprising:  
uniquely identifying which specific product classes deserve tracking, ~~and for each unit of each class that deserves tracking;~~  
~~assigning a unique identifier number, which is physically placed on the item wherever possible, the unique identifier is unique for all items tracked by the system, unlike serial numbers and the like, no two parts of different classes or within the same class possesses the same unique identification.~~

(currently amended) 18. The method of claim 14 further comprising:  
~~a logistical asset management network and process that are used together as a feedback system that allows for the tracking of items, providing real time data on which identified products status~~ transmitting information stored in the record corresponding to the asset from the central computer database over the communications link in response to the central computer database's receipt of the status update information and unique identifying code.

(currently amended) 19. The method of claim 14 wherein the status of a physical asset comprises:  
~~tracking that items~~ installed at a customer location,  
inventory,

disposed of, or  
being repaired ~~to provide data to the central database concerning the ultimate disposition of each product.~~

(currently amended) 20. The method of claim 14 ~~wherein the logistical asset management network, comprises~~ further comprising:

providing an electronic data interchange network that for linking multiple computer systems located in various locations to the central computer database such that the computer systems can be used in order to access the records of physical assets and track the status of assets and usage history, via the unique identifier numbers in from various locations on a real-time basis.

(currently amended) 21. The method of claim 14 ~~8 wherein~~ further comprising:  
the logistical asset management network and process includes scanning the unique identifying label attached to a physical asset with one of the scanners at a plurality of different data exchange points;

transmitting status update information and the unique identifying code over the communications link to the central computer database upon scanning the unique identifying label at each of the plurality of data exchange points; and

transmitting information stored in the record corresponding to the asset, from the central computer database over the communications link in response to receipt of the status update information and unique identifying code

~~three data exchange points~~  
~~installation,~~  
~~maintenance, and~~  
~~disposal.~~

(new) 22. The system of claim 1 wherein the status of a physical asset includes the location of the asset.

(new) 23. The system of claim 1 wherein status update information is transmitted over the communications link to the computer database along with the unique identifying code every time the status of the physical asset changes.

(new) 24. The system of claim 5 wherein the specific information in the record includes status information relating to the status of the physical asset.

(new) 25. The system of claim 5 wherein the record includes status information relating to the status of the physical asset.

(new) 26. The system of claim 5 wherein the user can update a record corresponding to a particular physical asset through a database server.

(new) 27. The method of claim 15 wherein scanning the unique identifying label attached to the asset encodes the location of the asset in the status update information transmitted over the communications link to the computer database.

(new) 28. The method of claim 20 wherein the data exchange points comprise: an installation location, a maintenance location, and a disposal location.

(new) 29. The system of claim 23 wherein the status update information includes location information.

(new) 30. The system of claim 25 wherein transmitting the unique identifying code over the communications link to the computer database causes the status information in the record to be updated.

(new) 31. The system of claim 25 wherein status update information is transmitted over the communications link to the computer database along with the unique identifying code every time the status of the physical asset changes.

(new) 32 The system of claim 26 wherein in response to receiving the unique identifying code, the computer database transmits information stored in the record corresponding to the asset over the communications link.